

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE NATURAL DISASTER SUPPORT TASK GROUP

17 March 1970

USGS Office, Reston, Virginia

1. The third meeting of the Task Group was convened by the Chairman at 1:30 P.M., it being noted that, although the agenda notice stated the meeting time to be 1:30 P.M., there had been general agreement at the previous meeting to meet at 1:00 P.M. Subsequent meetings will be held at 1:00 P.M.

2. Minutes of the 9 March 1970 meeting were read and amended as appropriate. The Chairman stated that, to facilitate preparation of minutes, use would be made of a tape recorder during this and subsequent meetings.

3. [] OCE, suggested use of the Corps' facilities at the Forrestal Building for future meetings because of general convenience. Offer was noted with appreciation; however, the consensus was to continue to meet at Reston.

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4. Handouts from USDA, NASA, and ESSA were distributed. (See Attachment 2 for listing.) Those of USDA and ESSA are in response to Item No. 2 on the agenda.

5. [] briefed on a suggested system for evaluation of post-disaster photography and rapid production of illustrative graphic products. Damage information displayed in the graphics were shown in the form of map overprints and overlays, and photo mosaics. Mock-ups of 1:250,000 and 1:24,000 maps were shown over the James River area in Virginia after "Camille" flooding. Emphasis was given to existence of and need for pre-disaster graphic data base (to include photography, maps, and other data). Specialized aircraft platforms were discussed. [] stated that the U. S. was 100% covered by 1:250,000 scale maps, of which about 50% were covered by large scale (1:24,000 and 1:62,500) maps. He also noted that there would be a high probability that most of the likely major natural disasters could be located on existing (or composite) maps of 1:250,000 scale and possibly the larger scale series. Gaps in recent photo coverage were noted and discussed at length, as was the pressing requirement for immediate and timely read out and information dissemination to all levels requiring such information, including the White House.

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6. [] described Coast and Geodetic Survey photo coverage holdings, stating that 60% of U. S. coastlines are covered at 1:20,000 scale or better--much of it in color. Depending on the coastal areas, urbanization, shoal conditions, etc., update cycles for production of CGS charts range from annually to once each ten years.

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7. [] noting the foregoing discussion as to gaps in existing data base, suggested that appropriate action via OST should be initiated without delay in order for data acquisition to be accomplished by onset of the hurricane season--say early mid-summer of this year.

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[] was given action with graphic support from USGS, Reston, to prepare requirements statements, reflecting interests of agencies present. Areas, specifications, etc. would be included.

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8. The Chairman spoke to the urgent need to complete the Task Group's work as rapidly as possible. It will be necessary, therefore, to pursue in detail the recommendations made during the previous meeting as to describing the type of disaster situations likely to be encountered; the type of resources; aircraft, cameras, P.I. personnel, etc. to be deployed against the information problem. Five tasks were identified by the Chairman, and committee composition was designated. The tasks assigned were to produce five "catalogs" as follows: (1) Platform Resources (aircraft, cameras, etc.); (2) Tasking Channels; (3) P.I. Resources; (4) Command Nets; and (5) Types of Disaster Likely. Committee compositions are listed in Attachment 3. At the next meeting, members were requested to be prepared to contribute as their information, interests, and resources would permit.

9. With respect to taskable resources, questions were raised as to use of commercial or contract firm aircraft. The principal issue as to use of these resources when and if available was the question of immediacy and the appropriate equipment for the job. Other sensors such as SLAR were noted to be useful in some cases. Weather, particular sensors for the specific phenomenon, information dissemination to State and local levels, and the need for further education of non-photo oriented managers were discussed.

10. [] described several areas of the Northwestern U. S. where present snow cover extent is of some concern to ESSA with respect to possible melt run-off flooding. These river basins are the Red River of the North, the Milk River, and others. These

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are described in the ESSA handout listed in Attachment 2. [redacted] indicated his interest in acquiring photo coverage of certain of these areas for early water volume estimating. Five teams will be working in these areas within the next ten days.

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He agreed to check these areas out on the basis of latest information and degree of priority and would contact as soon as possible

[redacted] as required; [redacted] to contact Col. [redacted] also as required.

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11. Upon agreeing to hold the next Task Group meeting at Reston, 24 March 1970 at 1:00 P. M., the meeting adjourned at 4:00 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

[redacted]

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Attachments - 3

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ATTACHMENT 2

DOCUMENTATION

1. **Aerial Photography in Natural Disaster Situations (USDA)**
2. **Information Provided to the Natural Disaster Support Task Group (NASA), March 17, 1970**
3. **ESSA Requirements for Natural Disaster Aerial Photography**

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